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# Harvard in the War



1917

*Eliza*  
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## HARVARD IN THE WAR

SINCE the outbreak of the War, President Lowell has sought to use in the service of the nation every facility which Harvard University could afford. The record of the University thus far has been a creditable record and for the duration of the war it must be maintained. The most notable achievements and activities are as follows.

### *The French Mission*

In response to the request of President Lowell and through the courtesy of the French Government, six French Officers under the leadership of Colonel Azan arrived in Cambridge in May. They actively assisted in the instruction in the Harvard Reserve Officers Training Corps, remaining for the duration of the Corps. At the conclusion of the first Government Camps, 550 officers selected from the 11 camps east of the Mississippi River were ordered to Cambridge by the War Department for a further four weeks' training under the French Officers. Colonel Azan and his associates were the first in the United States to demonstrate the value of French Officers for instruction in modern warfare. For the coming year they will assist in the training of the National Army at the Government cantonments.

### *The Reserve Officers Training Corps*

Immediately upon the declaration of war, the Harvard Regiment was converted into a Reserve Officers Training Camp. Intensive training was supplied from May 8, 1917, to August 15, 1917. The total enrollment was 1885. Of these 1139 were undergraduates at Harvard, 309 were Harvard graduates, 290 were men from other colleges, and 147 were men with no college affiliations. The Freshman Halls

were used as barracks, the basement of University Hall for administrative offices and lecture rooms, and field training was supplied at Soldiers Field, at Fresh Pond, Waverley, and Barre.

### *Naval School for Wireless Operators*

This school was established in May under Commandant Rush of the Charlestown Navy Yard. Enlisted naval cadets are given a three months' course in wireless telegraphy. The Navy Department at first assigned 250 men for this course. The numbers have been constantly increasing until there are now 1900 men in the school. They are housed, fed and taught in university buildings in Cambridge. Other similar schools throughout the country have now been closed and all instruction in wireless for the Navy Department will for the duration of the war be carried on at Harvard.

### *Cadet School for Ensigns*

Under the authority of the Navy Department, the Cadet School, First Naval District, is now established at Harvard to supply selected members of the Naval Reserve and others with the instruction necessary to qualify them for the ensigns' examination. The instruction is substantially the equivalent to that given in the similar course at Annapolis. The course lasts four months and 150 men are now enrolled at the School. Upon receiving their commissions, the men are assigned to active duty. All of these 150 cadets are housed and fed in university buildings in Cambridge and the equipment of the university used in their instruction.

### *Special Training for Quartermaster and Ordnance Corps*

At the request of the Council of National Defense, the Graduate School of Business Administration established two

courses to give special training useful to those intending to enter the Quartermaster or Ordnance Corps. One course, on Military Stores Keeping, and one on Cost Inspection for War Contracts. In addition, a course on Supply was offered to members of the Harvard R. O. T. C. The course was designed for prospective officers of the line who will serve with troops. There were enrolled in these courses 145 men selected for their fitness for the work.

### *Military Instruction, 1917-18*

For the present year there are two courses of military instruction; one designed for those who have had no previous experience and the other an advanced course for those who have had previous training. There are about 700 undergraduates enrolled in the elementary course and about 325 in the advanced course.

The elementary course is similar to that given heretofore and includes instruction in Infantry Drill Regulations, Field Service Regulations, Topography, Armaments, Formations and Tactics, Military Organization and Hygiene, Camp Sanitation, First Aid to the Wounded, and Military Policy of the United States.

Of the 326 in the advanced course, 231 are graduates of the summer Harvard R. O. T. C. and the remainder have had previous military training at a Federal Camp, with the State Militia, or with some similar organization. The instruction given these men is a continuation of their previous training and is conducted primarily under the direction of the French Officers. Such subjects are dealt with as advanced map reading and Military Topography, reading of French maps, sand table work, entrenchments, etc., to scale, company administration, military history, history of the military development in the present war, field orders, minor

tactics (French and the United States), and railroad transportation.

There is drill for both classes. The experienced men act as the officers of the Regiment and have in addition advanced work in French formations by themselves in the field. Practical instruction is given to all in drills, close and extended order, sighting and aiming drills, bayonet practice, gallery practice, map making, semaphore, wig-wag and in the best methods of trench warfare developed in the European War.

Major T. F. Flynn, U.S.A. Retired, is the Commandant. Lt. Colonel Azan and Lt. Morize, of the French Mission to Harvard, are again detailed to the University.

### *Naval Courses*

Courses have been established designed primarily for undergraduates in the Naval Reserve on leave of absence at the University who expect to offer themselves for the Ensign's examination. Instruction will be given in the Theory and Practice of Navigation, Nautical Astronomy, Naval History, Seamanship, Ordnance and Gunnery, Naval Regulations and Drill. Those who satisfactorily pass these courses will be permitted to take the examination for commissions as Ensigns in the Naval Reserve.

### *Military Medicine*

At the request of the Surgeon-General, courses in both Army and Navy Medicine were given at the Harvard Medical School. Also, a course in Orthopedic Surgery has recently been established to give advanced instruction to selected members of the Medical Corps. Upon completion of the course they will be assigned for active duty to the Reconstruction Hospitals in France and in the United States.

## *Summer Instruction to Medical Students*

In order to permit medical students to obtain their degrees at the earliest possible moment, instruction for the fourth year class was continued at the Medical School throughout the summer months. By this procedure, ninety men will obtain the degree of M.D. and become available for the Medical Corps in February instead of in June.

## *Base Hospital Units*

The medical personnel of four Base Hospital Units has been composed almost wholly of members of the teaching force of the Harvard Medical School or its graduates. Three of these units are now on active service "Somewhere in France" and the other is awaiting orders.

## *Dental Clinics*

Upon the request of the Government, the clinic of the Harvard Dental School with its 125 chairs has been utilized to give dental treatment both to drafted men and to those temporarily exempted for physical unfitness on account of the condition of their teeth. The Dental School also maintains 2 chairs at the Naval School for Wireless Operators and 1 at Commonwealth Pier for members of the Naval Reserve.

## *The Botanical Raw Products Committee*

The Bussey Institution of Harvard University is serving as the headquarters of this committee organized under the authority of the Council for National Defense. It serves as a clearing house where manufacturers needing raw products of a botanical nature may obtain information in regard to them. It also collects and disseminates agricultural, botanical and commercial data on all species and varieties of plants having an economic value.

## *Psychological Tests for Aviators and Submarine Operators*

The Department of Psychology is engaged in developing and standardizing psychological tests which will enable the Government to select from a group of aviation recruits those who will in all probability make successful fliers and those who ought not to enter the service. With the authority of the Government, 75 men have already been tested. They are now at flying schools and as rapidly as the reports on their ability are received, they will be compared with the results of the various laboratory tests to determine which are sensitive to aviation ability. Similar experiments are being carried on, designed to determine the fitness of enlisted men in the Navy to operate submarine detecting devices.

## *The Department of German*

At the request of the authorities of the Charlestown Navy Yard, members of this Department have been acting as translators of German. They went over the German steamers seized by the Government translating all inscriptions, directions and papers found thereon.

## *French Conversation at West Point*

At the request of the War Department, several members of the French Department spent the summer months at West Point helping the cadets become proficient in French conversation. The instruction was of a most informal character and was carried on for the most part during meals and leisure moments.

## *College Buildings Devoted to Military Purposes*

The following college buildings are being used by the Government or for the exclusive military needs of the University: Pierce Hall, The Hemenway Gymnasium, Memorial Hall,

Hastings Hall, Perkins Hall, The Studio Building, The Crufts Laboratory, Holyoke House, the dining room in Standish Hall, lecture rooms in Harvard Hall, the basement of University Hall, and a portion of Dane Hall.

### *Opportunities for French Conversation*

A room in the yard has been reserved for those who wish to acquire proficiency in French conversation. Under the auspices of the French Department, some one will at stated times be on hand to converse informally in the French language. The French Officers, the Exchange Professor, and other Frenchmen in Cambridge are coöperating in order to supply an adequate opportunity for undergraduates and graduates to become familiar with the everyday use of that language. In many ways every effort will be made to build up a French centre at Harvard.

### *War Records of Harvard Men*

For the immediate needs of Harvard men, their families and friends, as well as for the future historian, complete data is being gathered together of the war activity and present address of every Harvard man engaged in any form of national service. This work is being carried on under the auspices of the Alumni Association and the information is available to all. The records thus far collected show that Harvard's contribution of men is as follows:

United States Army . . . . .	1,997
Harvard R. O. T. C. and other military bodies . . . . .	917
Foreign armies . . . . .	122
United States Navy . . . . .	713
Red Cross and other relief work . . . . .	229
Ambulance service . . . . .	420
National, State and other committee work . . . . .	498
Miscellaneous . . . . .	125
Total . . . . .	<hr/> 5,429

### *The Harvard Bureau in Paris*

For the convenience of Harvard men in France, a Bureau has been established in Paris. It is quartered in the American University Union, 6 Rue de Richelieu. The Union has been established and will be maintained by the leading American colleges and technical schools to meet the needs of American college men and their friends in Europe. It includes bed-rooms, reading rooms, baths, and restaurant. The American Red Cross and the Y. M. C. A. are coöperating in its management. Within the Union several of the larger universities are maintaining separate bureaus. The Harvard Bureau will be the centre for all information relating to Harvard men. Several graduates will be in readiness to follow up special inquiries where the regular channels fail, to visit the injured in hospitals and to render every possible service to Harvard men and their families. Harvard has offered to perform this same service for men of Amherst, Bowdoin, Dartmouth, and Williams in the event that they do not find it desirable to send a representative to France and to join forces with them in any case.

### *War Activities of the Teaching Staff*

One hundred and sixteen members of the teaching staff have either severed their connection with the University or obtained a leave of absence to devote their full time to war work for the government. One hundred others are engaged in some form of national service while conducting their regular courses of instruction at the University.

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## *AN APPEAL TO HARVARD MEN*

Thus has Harvard met her obligations to the nation. The policy of the University has been to offer every facility to the country, consistent with maintaining the regular course of instruction, and as a university to make the same ready response to the call of the nation that Harvard men have made as individuals.

Much of this war work involves additional expense which cannot be met from the regular funds of the University. Harvard men and friends of the University are therefore asked for subscriptions to enable Harvard to maintain and to develop as occasion demands every opportunity for service to the Government. Realizing the enormous demands at the present time for subscriptions for worthy causes, we are asking now only for the amount necessary to meet the immediate needs.

**\$30,000 is needed now**

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